

K-343

The Lorain House
High Street, Chestertown
3rd quarter 18th C.

Due to the many alterations this house has experienced, coupled with only vague references to any edifice existing on lot No. 7 in the earliest deeds, pinpointing the exact date of its original construction is difficult.

Thomas Lorain, mariner, purchased lot No. 7 from William Wilmer in 1765 for the sum of @250¹ – an amount which could be indicative of substantial improvements. However, when William Wilmer inherited the lot, at the time of his father's death (Simon), there is reference only to the storehouse.²

It is not until 1776 when Lorain's son John leased 50' from the neighboring lot belonging to Sarah Cruikshank that reference is made to a building constructed during Thomas Lorain's ownership.³ Considering this reference and a number of architectural details in the house typical of the period, the house most likely dates from the 3rd quarter of the 18th Century and was certainly built by the Lorain family.

In 1782 when business was beginning to wane in Chestertown, John Lorain advertised his house and store in Baltimore:

“ TO BE SOLD

A Lot of Ground, situate in ChesterTown Maryland, with buildings thereon, consisting of a good and roomy dwelling house, the storehouse adjoining, with other accessory buildings; the situation pleasant, and equal to any in the place for mercantile business.

John Lorain⁷⁴

The house and store were not sold, however, until 14 years later. It was in 1796 that the property was sold to William McKenny, a Queen Annes County gentleman who owned other properties in town as well.

As there is very little change in the sale price before the latter half of the 19th Century, it is likely that Joshua Thomas Twilley who owned the house from 1864-1912 was responsible for its remodeling into a two and a half story, 5 bay house.

During a recent remodeling the remains of a gambrel roof were found on the northwest end of the building suggesting that Thomas or John Lorain had constructed a framed 1-1/2 story dwelling originally. The northwest chimney remains from that period and possesses a wide arch in the basement and a large elliptical arched fireplace on the first floor. All of the other finishes appear to date from the Twilley occupancy.

Since 1912, the property has been two separate residences with service wings to the rear.

1. Land Records, Lib. DD 2, fol. 393.
2. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 58.
3. Land Records, Lib. DD 5, fol. 238.
4. Maryland Journal + Baltimore Advertiser, Tuesday, October 8, 1782 and October 29, 1782.

K-343

~~K-44~~ John Lorain House
Chestertown
private

L776-L796

This house, if restored, would become one of the principal houses in Chestertown's historic district. It is a large scale five bay frame Federal mansion, which has been broken up into two houses, had three of its bays sided with asbestos, and picked up a pair of nineteenth century porches. Both of its gable ends are brick, though at present only the northwest is exposed. The house was built for John Lorain.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1503432204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Lorain House

AND/OR COMMON

K-343

~~K-47~~

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

115-7 117 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Peter F. Tapke

Telephone #: 778-2936

STREET & NUMBER

117 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: EHP 32

Folio #: 383

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-343

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

117 High Street is located on the southwest side of High Street between Queen and Front Streets, flush up against 111-113 High Street on a part of Town Lot 7 in Chestertown.

frame

It is a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 5-bay Federal style/dwelling with a gabled roof and dormers. Its northwest (and presumably also its southeast) gable end is brick. The house has been converted to a double-dwelling. The facade is symmetrical.

There is a painted brick basement. Bays 1 and 2 (from the southeast) are sided in clapboard; the entrance bay and bays 4 and 5 have asbestos siding over clapboard. The original main entrance, presently the entrance to 117 High, sits on a high brick nineteenth century porch. There are wood steps, two square columns in each of the front corners, and two half-pillars against the facade. The rail is pierced splat. There is a lintel, box cornice, and flat roof. The door has 3-pane sidelights and a 5-pane transom, and is paneled. The door to 115 High replaces an original window.

All of the windows on the house are double hung sash, six panes over six, with louvered shutters.

The house has a box cornice, a deep soffit, and modillion brackets. The roof over the two bays of 115 High is of composition shingles; that over the three bays of 117 High is tin sheet which simulate fish scale shingles.

There are chimneys within the gable ends, the one at the southeast has been stuccoed.

There are three gabled dormers with 6/6 windows.

The roof does not overhang the northwest gable end and there are now windows; the southeast gable end is up against the adjoining house.

There is an L wing to the rear of 117 which is four bays deep and one room wide; it is two stories high, and squared to the 115 High also has a wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
— PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE
— 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER
— 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)
		— INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1776-1796 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house restored would become one of the principal houses in the downtown Chestertown historic district. It needs its original clapboard siding revealed, its nineteenth century facelifting removed, and to be freed of the adjoining house 111-113, so both of its handsome brick gable ends are exposed. No finer Federal style monument of its proportions exists in Chestertown.

The house was built for John Lorain sometime between 1776, the year he obtained the property from Sarah Cruickshank in some sort of rental arrangement that turned into a purchase, and 1796, the year he sold the property to William McKenney for \$1062.

Summary of Title Search

Sarah Cruickshank to John Lorain DD 5 238 (1776)

(rental arrangement after which it appears title passed)

John Lorain to William McKenney BC 4 466 (1796) \$1062

($\frac{1}{4}$ of Lot 7)

Samuel Osborn, Trustee for sale of real estate of Wm. McKenney, deceased,
to John Stoddart WS 3 225 (1810..deed dated 1819)

John Stoddart to ~~James McAlpin and George W. South~~ WS 3 462 (1821) --\$3000
Thomas Fletcher and Sidney Bardner WS 3 462 (1821) \$3000

James McAlpin and George W. South, assignees in trust of T. Fletcher & S. Gardner
to Ebenezer Blackiston TW 4 536 \$1300 (1825)

Ebenezer Blackiston to James B. Parish JNG 3 174 (1833)

James B. Parish to Joseph Wickes JNG 7 524 (1841) \$1600

Joseph A. Wickes and Pere L. Wickes to Joshua Thomas Twilley JKH 4 352 (1864) \$1700

Joshua T. Twilley leaves property to his children JEM 1 206 (1905)

Jr Merion Twilley, trustee to E.C. Loud JTD 26 88 (1912) \$2900
(house split in this transaction: 115 to J.W. Merrit for \$900)

E.C. Loud to William P. Crenshaw RRA 5 573 (1926)

William Crenshaw to Marietta Loud RRA 7 11 (1926)

Marietta Loud wills house to John W. Loud wills ERB 4 182 (1966)

John W. Loud to Peter Frank Tapke EHP 32 383 (1969)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning in the west building line of High Street as established by the Commissioners of Chestertown in 1911, at a point 264.94 feet southeast from the North curb of Queen Street and running (1) South 47 degrees, 30 minutes West 110.90 feet to the land of Charles Reiche; thence with the same (2) North 42 degrees, 50 minutes West 41 feet; thence (3) South 40degrees West 36 feet to James T. Bright's lands; thence with the same (4) North 45 degrees, 30 minutes West 32 feet to the lands of C.H. Jefferson; thence with the last named lands three courses: (5) North 45 degrees, 18 minutes East 77.80 feet (6) South 44 degrees, 28

minutes East 40.10 feet, (7) 45 degrees, 32 minutes East 68.90 feet to the said West building line of High Street, thence with the same (8) South 42 degrees, 50 minutes East 35 feet to the point of beginning.

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

June, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

K-343

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS
(NEW)
FARM

COUNTY

LYNCHBURG

POPLAR RD

STREET

STREET

STREET

KENT

STREET

MT. VERNON

WASHINGTON

U.S. 213

TERRACE

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

SCHOOL AVENUE

STREET

MORRIS

MILL

STREET

SPRING ST.

ROW STREET

TWILLEY LANE
QUEEN

COURT ST.

CHURCH ST.

AVENUE

MAPLE

STREET

RIVERSIDE TERRACE

BYFORD COURT

Chester

U.S. 213

River

MORRIS

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD VALLEY

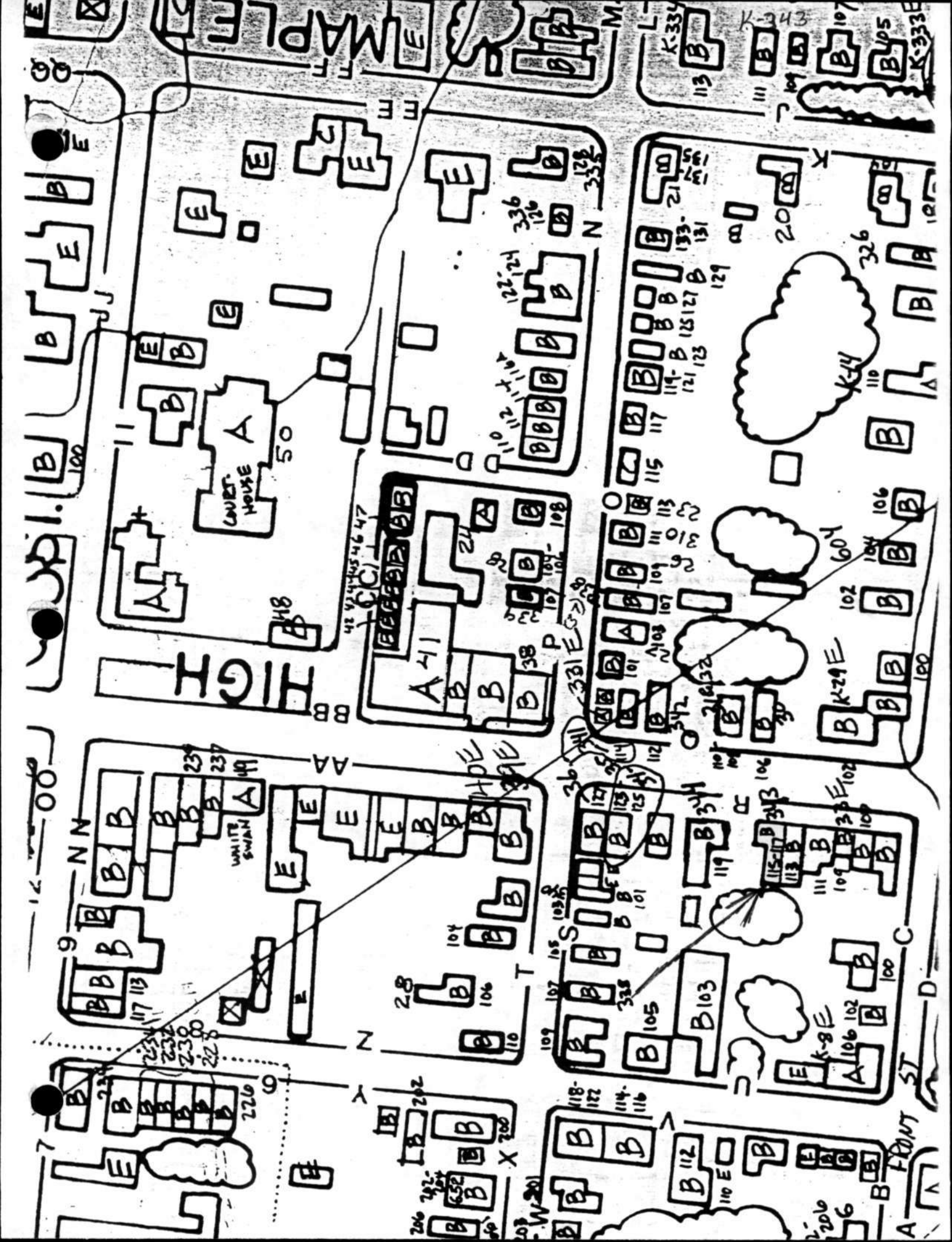
PINE

CEDAR

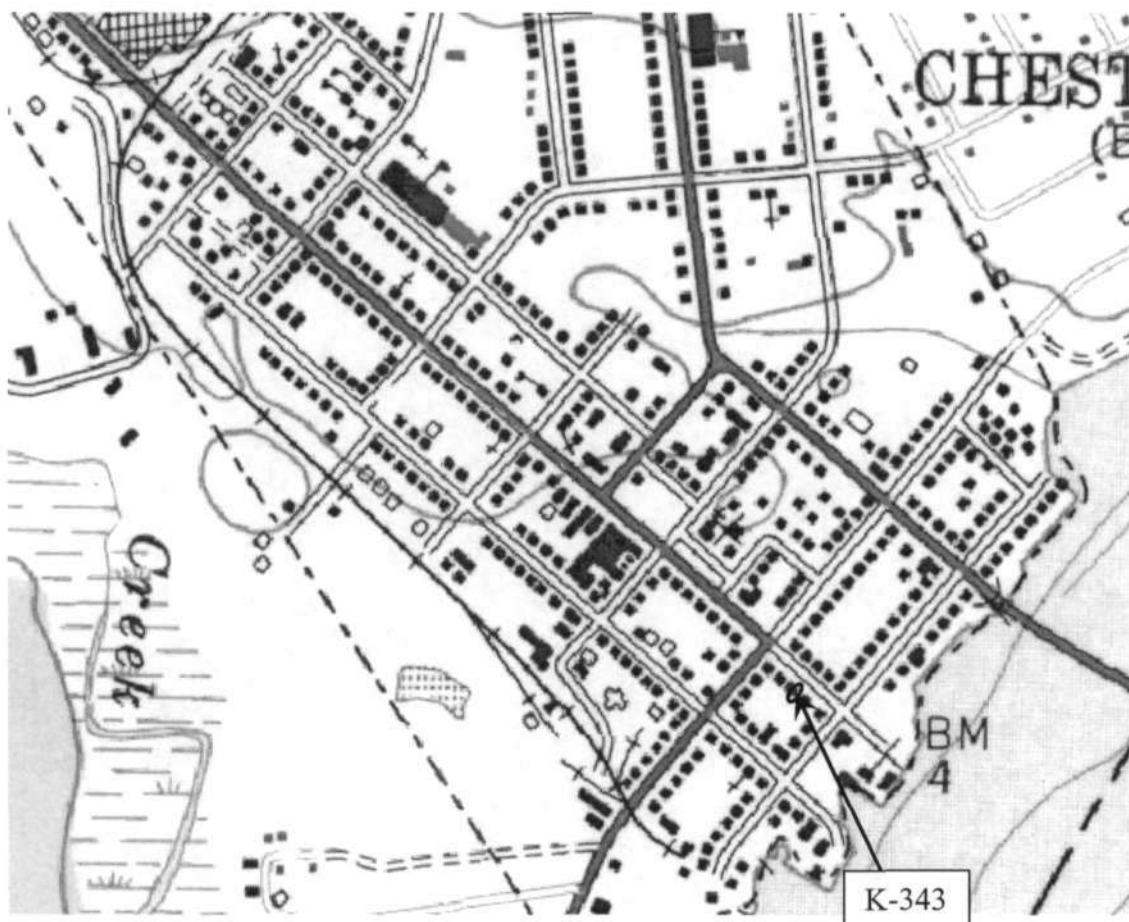
BROWN VIEW RD.

STREET

SCHOOL STREET



K-343
117 High St.
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





K-343 John Lorain House
115-117 High

4/22 N



K-343 John Lorain House
115-117 High

1/77 N